



# Weekender

April 1, 2010

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Gray whales annually pass by the Peninsula twice each year, once on their migration from the Arctic to their wintering and breeding grounds in Southern California and Mexico and on the return trip from the southern climes.

Each winter Pacific Gray Whales pass by the Peninsula after spending the summer feeding in the food-rich waters of the arctic. Heading south along the Pacific coast to the bays of Baja California, where they mate and nurse their young, you can witness the annual winter journey.

Early January is the peak of the migration, but whales can be spotted mid-December through early February. The heights around the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and North Head Lighthouse offer the best viewing. Bring binoculars if you have them.

The northward migrations begin mid-March. The immature whales, adult males and females without calves are the first to head north, passing the Peninsula in March and April. Later, females with calves come along at a slightly slower rate, passing the Washington coast in May.

### HOW TO WHALE WATCH

#### *Choose a location*

Find a spot like North Head, where the land juts into the ocean and there is plenty of elevation. The North Head Lighthouse and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center are excellent choices.

#### *Choose a time*

Pick early morning hours when conditions are usually more favorable prior to the onset of winds and their accompanying whitecaps.

Choose weather that favors a calm ocean. Don't go during or just after a heavy storm. Overcast days are good because there is little glare.

#### *What to look for*

Scan the horizon and look for the blow, the whale's vapor, water or condensation blown up to 12 feet in the air when the whale exhales.

Once a blow is located, stay with it. Where one blow is viewed, others will follow either from the same whale or others.

Whales have periodic blow patterns during their migration, making up to a half dozen short, shallow dives before a prolonged dive of up to 10 minutes (more generally 3 to 5 minutes).

Frequently, the animals leave turbulent eddies along the surface after short dives.

Usually, only a small portion of the whale's head and back show during a blow. Diving whales, where the rear fin (fluke) is exposed, or breaching, where the whale jumps nearly completely out of the water, are quite rare.

## 100 DAYS OF COLOR PROGRESS



January 7, 2010 peeking thru.

March 26, 2010

March 31, 2010

## Candidates for Board Positions Sought

**There are four Board Positions that will be open for election at the annual meeting in July. Three of the positions are for three year terms. One is a one year position. If you have an interest in serving your community, and helping to assure that Surfside is a great place to live, consider running for one of these open positions. Applications for the Board Positions need to be received by May 1, 2010.**

**The application packet for Board Positions is available at the Surfside Office.**

**Or**

**On the Surfside Web Site: [www.surfsideonline.org](http://www.surfsideonline.org)**



## NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Relations Committee is working on the upcoming events:

1. Date set for Spring Planting Demonstration April 24, 2010 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
2. The 3rd Annual Memorial Day Weekend Garage Sale....May 28, and 29 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
3. Dedication of the Surfside Veterans Memorial at the 306th Place bridge mid June (hopefully for Flag Day)

## ANNUAL SYSTEM FLUSHING

### Surfside Water Department to test water flow and hydrants and begin annual

#### System flushing beginning Monday March 29, 2010

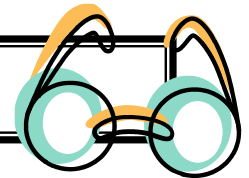
The Surfside Water Department has announced that, starting Monday March 29<sup>th</sup>, our annual flushing program will begin. The flushing will be done between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will continue for approximately one month.

Customers may experience temporary low pressure and/or water discoloration during the flushing process. If these conditions continue after 3:30 p.m., call the Surfside Water Department at 665-4171 or 360-783-2426

**Below is an example of an open hydrant.**



**Lost and Found:** Found prescription sun glasses on 349th and I.



## OFFICE PHONE SYSTEM CHANGE

The phones at the Surfside Office are no longer connected to the automated call answering system. Now when you call the office you will be answered by a staff member. You will no longer need to know the extension number of the staff person you wish to speak with. Our goal is to serve you in a more expedited manner and to be more user friendly.

## **GARAGE SALE**

**SURFSIDE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
GARAGE SALE  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup>  
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM EACH DAY  
Surfside Business Office  
31402 H Street**

The proceeds from this sale will be used for the purchase of shrubs and landscaping materials at the 306<sup>th</sup> Street bridge site. The beautiful brass plaque to honor our veterans has arrived. It will be set into a large stone at this site, along with the American Flag.  
Donated garage sale items are needed and can be left with Nancy at the compactor.

## **WI FI and LIBRARY**

### ***Just a reminder to all of our visitors.***

The Surfside Home Owners Association provides WI FI so you can stay connected during your visit.. There is no password required, and you can connect 24 hours a day seven days a week in the parking lot of the Surfside Office. 31402 H Street. During office hours and when the Community Room is not in use for meetings, you are welcome to come inside, surf the net in comfort or choose a book from our shelves to curl up with on a rainy afternoon.

## **WEEKENDER NOTICE**

**The weekend of April 8th there will not be a weekender published due to staffing schedules.**

**If you have any ideas for articles or activities to highlight please send them via email to:**

**[office@surfsideonline.org](mailto:office@surfsideonline.org).**

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## Rhododendrons



The name Rhododendron comes from the greek words "rodon" which means "rose" and "dendron" which means "tree", hence **Rose Tree**. Rhododendron flowers are usually produced in **trusses**. The family Ericacea, into which the genus Rhododendron falls, also includes heathers, mountain laurels, blueberries and cranberries as well as manzanita, trailing arbutus, madrone, huckleberry, kalmiopsis, sourwood, blueberries and a number of other genus. Rhododendrons are referred to as **the King of Shrubs** since they are regarded by many as the **best flowering evergreen plants for the temperate landscape**

### Facts About Rhododendron

Most people know rhododendrons as **big leathery leafed shrubs** with round clusters of white, pink, red, or purple blooms.

Rhododendron was discovered by The 16th century Flemish botanist, Charles l'Ecluse. Rhododendron was introduced to Britain in 1656 from the European Alps, and so the name **Alpine Rose** for Rhododendron histrum. Exploration in America came as a result of a partnership between English Quaker Peter Collinson and botanist/farmer John Bartram of Pennsylvania. This led to the importation to England of the American natives, Rhododendron canescens, Rhododendron nudiflorum, and Rhododendron viscosum in 1734, and Rhododendron maximum in 1736. Rhododendron ferrugineum, another species from the European Alps also known as the Alpine Rose, came along in 1752. The Washington State Senate confirmed that the **Coast Rhododendron / Pacific Rhododendron** (Rhododendron macrophyllum) would be the **floral emblem for Washington state**. Rhododendron is also the **national flower of Nepal**, and the **state flower of Sikkim in India**. All the parts of Rhododendrons are dangerous, especially leaves, showing symptoms of Stomach irritation, abdominal pain, abnormal heart rate and rhythm, convulsions, coma, death. Honey made from the nectar of Rhododendron flowers is also toxic and should not be consumed.

**Azaleas** are also included in the genus Rhododendron, but they are generally excluded from the "true rhododendrons."

### What is the difference between Rhododendrons and Azaleas?

The genus Rhododendron includes both **Rhododendrons and Azaleas**. In this genus, both Rhododendron and Azalea are used as common names. The distinctions that follow are made by gardeners. The Rhododendron plants are usually **evergreen** and those labeled Azalea plants are **deciduous**, although there are a few evergreen Azaleas like those in the florist or nursery trade. To the typical gardener, azaleas are conspicuous because they don't have trusses. The exception to this is the Homebush type azaleas which have a very tight ball shaped truss but this type of azalea is deciduous. It should be mentioned that the tropical Vireya rhododendrons don't have a truss either and look more like azaleas but are in general treated as a special class, different from most other rhododendrons and azaleas.

## Rhododendrons

- Rhododendrons have **ten or more stamens**, while Azaleas have **five**.
- Rhododendrons have large, paddle-shaped leaves and large, bell- or funnel-shaped flowers borne in terminal trusses. Azaleas have small, elliptical leaves and trumpet- or tubular-shaped flowers at the ends of the shoots. Still some rhododendrons, called lepidodes have small leaves and small flowers and some rhododendrons are naturally miniature have miniscule leaves and flowers. It is true that all azaleas have small leaves compared to the large leaved rhododendrons, the elepidotes.
- Rhododendrons are erect, growing up to 80 feet high, while Azaleas are more twiggy, spreading bushes, usually reaching a height of no more than **8 feet**.
- Both Rhododendrons and Azaleas provide **fragrant blossoms** in an array of colors - from pure white and light pastels to brilliant orange and gold to purple and red. Some blossoms change color over time or are marked with contrasting colors.

### Growing Rhododendrons

Never plant a rhododendron deeper than it was originally planted. The roots seldom ever extend more than twelve inches deep. Planting them deeper than twelve inches will prevent them from getting enough air.

- Plant Rhododendrons in spring or fall.
- Space plants **2 to 6** feet apart, depending on the expected mature size of the plant. Dig a hole only as deep as the root ball and **2 to 3 times** as wide.
- Rhododendrons need an acidic soil. If your soil is in very poor condition, amend the soil you've removed from the hole with a small amount of compost.
- Carefully remove the plant from the container and set it in the hole.
- Fill the hole half full with soil, then water it well to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets.
- The chief killer of rhododendrons is wet soil. Rhododendrons need moist well drained soil, but not a water logged soil. Rhododendrons seem to thrive in Mediterranean climates where there are long periods with no rain.

### Rhododendrons Plant Care

- Apply a layer of **compost** under the shrub each spring, spreading it out to the dripline (the area under the outermost branches).
- Add a **2-inch layer** of mulch to retain moisture and control weeds, keeping mulch a few inches away from the trunk.
- Water plants during the summer if rainfall is less than 1 inch per week. In regions with severe winters, protect evergreen rhododendrons in the fall by wrapping burlap around them.
- Although seldom, rhododendrons need Pruning to remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches anytime. Prune Rhododendrons to reduce height **after flowering in spring**. Rhododendrons will grow back from old wood.
- Rhododendrons are not usually prone to insects or diseases.

They can develop a condition called **chlorosis**, which is characterized by yellowing of a leaf between dark green veins.

Chlorosis can be caused by malnutrition caused by alkalinity of the soil, potassium deficiency, calcium deficiency, iron deficiency or magnesium deficiency. A combination of acidification with sulfur and iron supplements such as chelated iron or iron sulfate will usually treat this problem. Chlorosis can also be caused by nitrogen toxicity (usually caused by nitrate fertilizers) or other conditions that damage the roots such as root rot, severe cutting of the roots, root weevils or root death caused by extreme amounts of fertilizer.

## 306th Bridge Site Progress

Site preparation has begun this week at the 306th bridge site. The pine trees on the West side of the canal have been removed and the ground leveled. The canal bank has been enhanced for better and safer access for fishing. This cleared area will be seeded for grass and landscape plantings will follow later. Site preparation now continues on the East side.



**PICTURE:** Debbie Richmond, Project Manager, directs work on the site.



# SURFSIDE HOBBIES

## *Article submitted by Rob Miller*

### Above Surfside

One of my too many different hobbies is flying radio controlled (RC) airplanes off the beach in Surfside. The advent of relatively small lightweight high definition cameras makes capturing HD video possible from high above Surfside Estates. I built the airplane shown in the nearby photo from scratch explicitly to carry my Sony Handycam high into the sky. I've posted several "Above Surfside" videos on YouTube. The links are provided below. If you live within about a two mile radius of G Street and 306<sup>th</sup> Place in any direction there is a good chance you will be able to spot your house.

Rob Miller – [rob@atm-international.com](mailto:rob@atm-international.com)

1,849 foot climb and dive – A really great view of all of Surfside all the way to the end of the Long Beach peninsula including the lighthouse replica and Ledbetter park as seen from one thousand eight hundred forty nine feet high (first two minutes are mostly blue sky as the airplane climbed to 1,849': <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIynyGDaCpw>

Take your own ride on the airplane, fly above the clouds – this is a fun video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDOFHmQNMH0>

Osterville to Ocean Park – Took off from Osterville and flew all the way south to Ocean Park. This was a 12 minute flight but I edited the video down to about five minutes. Set to music by Wagner (be sure to turn your sound volume up). I flew the airplane while following in car to keep up with it. Landed on the beach in downtown Ocean Park:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzzTxp2j59E>

G Street flight – provides a really great view of G Street looking north from 306<sup>th</sup> Place:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3n8EVDtGs9w>



Rob Miller and his remote control plane



A view of Surfside from the camera aboard Rob's plane

# April 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Clam Digging 8:52 AM	2 Water/Field Service Committee 1:00 PM	3
4 	5	6	7	8 Lands and Buildings Committee Meeting 1:00 PM	9	10
11	12	13 Architectural Committee Meeting 9:00 AM Community Relations Committee 1:00 PM  Bunco 6:30 PM	14 RV Committee 9:00 AM	15	16 Clam Digging 8:32 AM	17 Board Meeting 9:00 AM Beach Clean up! Clam Digging 9:12 AM
18 Clam Digging 9:56 AM	19	20 Architectural Committee Meeting 9:00 AM	21 Nominating Committee 10:00 AM	22	23	24 Plant Demonstration 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
25	26	27 Architectural Committee Meeting 9:00 AM	28	29	30	